DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 16, 2010   **BILL NUMBER:** AB 2203
POSITION: Neutral, note concerns   **AUTHOR:**   J. Solorio

BILL SUMMARY: Public Postsecondary Education: College Textbooks

This bill would require the California State University (CSU) and the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), and request the University of California (UC), to review and revise their transfer policies to ensure that California Community College (CCC) students may continue to use textbooks for transfer and general education courses, regardless of publication date, for as long as the textbook is available and the information in the textbooks remains current and reflects contemporary thinking in the discipline. The UC's current policy when reviewing CCC courses proposed for general education credit at UC is that most textbooks should have been published within the last five years. However, CCC articulation officers may request an exemption to use a textbook older than five years, and UC stated that they have never refused such an exemption request. The CSU stated that a textbook's age has no bearing on the transferability of a CCC course.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would have little fiscal impact on either the segments or the CCC students taking courses that would be using the textbooks affected by this bill's policy. The CCCCO noted it could incur staffing, travel and meeting costs to review and revise the transfer policies as the bill would require them to do, but these costs would be minor. The other segments could incur similar minor costs.

The main intent of the bill, however, would be to reduce students' costs by allowing textbooks to be used for longer periods of time, whereby students could purchase used books rather than new editions. However, as noted above, if a CCC professor has sufficient reason to use a textbook older than five years for a general education transfer course, it appears that an exemption would be allowed. Furthermore, the bill's provision that would allow textbooks to be used for an indefinite period for as long as the textbook is available is not likely to apply to most courses, given that textbook publishers revise most college textbooks in less than five years.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the April 8, 2010 version do not alter our position. While the previous version would have encouraged UC, CSU and the CCCCO to revise their transfer policies regarding textbook use, these amendments would require CSU and the CCCCO and request UC to do so, which the segments have indicated would not change their assessment of the bill's impact from the previous version.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral fiscally on this bill but notes the following potential policy concerns:

- Currently CCC instructors appear to be able to use textbooks older than five years for a general education transfer course, if justified. Furthermore, CCCCO noted that as part of its textbook affordability effort, it has worked with UC and CSU recently to review their transfer policies,

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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved_____
			Position Disapproved_____

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making it easier to have courses approved that use textbooks with no publication date, older dates, or dates that constantly change.

- The UC noted that the current five-year textbook policy is supported by some articulation and transfer staff at the CCC because it encourages CCC faculty to update their course outlines and textbooks regularly.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO LA CO RV	PROP 98	FC	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year) (Dollars in Thousands) 2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	Fund Code
6440/UC	SO	No		------------------ No/Minor Fiscal Impact ------------------					0001
6610/CSU	SO	No		------------------ No/Minor Fiscal Impact ------------------					0001
6870/Comm College	SO	No		------------------ No/Minor Fiscal Impact ------------------					0001